has been stated that a large number of protected animals were slaughtered for feast;

(b) whether poaching of deer is becoming a common feature and a film star of Bombay was also caught recently for killing the animal in Jodhpur; and

(c) if so, the stringent measures Government propose to take against poachers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Incidents of poaching of deer come to the notice of this Ministry from time to time. In one of the incidents cine stars have also been caught in Jodhpur for killing Black Bucks.

(c) Cases have been filed against the offenders under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Institutional Arrangements for Environmental Protection

636. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any institutional arrangements for environmental protection measures have been firmed up with the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The Government in its efforts to firm up institutional arrangements with the State Governments has delegated, in a phased manner, limited powers under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to all the State Governments/Union Territories and to the State Pollution Control Boards/Committees constituted under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 including other State agencies for the protection of environment. The State Pollution Control Boards/Committees also have powers defined in the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

The State Pollution Control Boards/ Committees have also been provided financial assistance under the World Bank projects and through cess collected under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977 for institutional strengthening and carrying out various pollution prevention and control activities.

Survey of Velligonda Project

637. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh requested the Union Government for clearance for conducting survey of Velligonda Project to utilise surplus waters of Krishna river;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely date by which clearance to conduct the survey would be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal of Government of Andhra Pradesh for conducting survey of Velligonda Project under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was received by this Ministry on 20.1.1998.

(c) After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government, the Central Government has rejected it on merit on 10.7.98.

Elephants killed by Electricity Lines in Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary

638. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the forest power lines killed two elephants in Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken to instruct Tamil Nadu Electricity Board to raise the electricity lines to a safe height?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 15.9.1998 an adult